

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. – 12. (Cancelled)

13. **(Currently Amended)** A process for bleaching a cellulosic fibre material with a peroxide compound in an aqueous alkaline medium, comprising a bleaching step wherein

a) a polymer solution containing a first polymer (A) comprising a homopolymer of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid or maleic acid, or a copolymer of acrylic acid and/or methacrylic acid with an unsaturated dicarboxylic acid, and a second polymer (B) comprising a poly- α -hydroxyacrylic acid or a salt thereof, said polymer solution having a pH of at ~~most 7~~ most 6, is added to a cellulosic fibre material, and

b) thereafter adding a peroxide compound and an alkaline substance and carrying out the bleaching.

14. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 13 wherein the bleaching is carried out in the absence of a nitrogen-containing chelating agent.

15. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 13 or 14 wherein the bleaching is carried out in the absence of added calcium and/or magnesium ions.

16. (Cancelled)

17. **(Currently Amended)** The process of ~~claim 16~~ claim 17 wherein the polymer solution has a pH of at most 5.

18. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 13 wherein the first polymer (A) comprises a raw polymer obtained from the homopolymerization of acrylic acid, methacrylic acid or maleic acid or from the copolymerization of acrylic acid and/or methacrylic acid with an unsaturated dicarboxylic acid, said raw polymer having a pH of below 7.

19. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 18, in which the raw polymer has a pH below 6.

20. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 18, in which the raw polymer has a pH below 5.

21. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 13 wherein the first polymer (A) has a molecular weight of at least 4000.

22. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 13 wherein the first polymer (A) has a molecular weight of at least 10000.

23. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 13 wherein the first polymer (A) has a molecular weight of at least 30000.

24. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 13 wherein the second polymer (B) has a molecular weight of at least 5000.

25. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 13 wherein the second polymer (B) has a molecular weight of at least 10000.

26. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 13 wherein the second polymer (B) has a molecular weight of at least 15000.

27. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 13 wherein the first polymer (A) comprises a copolymer of acrylic acid and/or methacrylic acid with maleic acid, wherein the molar ratio of acrylic acid and/or methacrylic acid to maleic acid is from 80:20 to 20:80.

28. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 13 wherein the first polymer (A) comprises a copolymer of acrylic acid and/or methacrylic acid with maleic acid, wherein the molar ratio of acrylic acid and/or methacrylic acid to maleic acid is from 70:30 to 50:50.

29. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 13 wherein the share of the second polymer (B) is from 1 to 50% by weight of the total amount of the first and second polymers (A) and (B).

30. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 13 wherein the polymers (A) and (B) as active material are added in a total amount of 0.05 to 10 kg per ton of dry cellulosic fibre material.

31. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 13 wherein the polymers (A) and (B) as active material are added in a total amount of 0.1 to 5 kg per ton of dry cellulosic fibre material.

32. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 13 wherein the cellulosic fibre material comprises a chemical, mechanical, chemi-mechanical or deinked pulp.